

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A fluidized cellulosic polymer suspension of a cellulosic polymer in an alkali formate containing solution is particularly efficacious in the thickening of brines, particularly high density brines, in the recovery of oil and/or gas from a subterranean formation. The alkali formate containing solution preferably has between from about 40 to about 75 weight percent of alkali formate. Preferred as alkali formate are potassium formate, cesium formate and a mixture thereof. The true crystallization temperature (TCT) of the alkali formate solution is preferably less than or equal to 20°, more preferably less than or equal to 18° F., most preferably less than or equal to 10° F., ideally less than or equal to 0° F. The alkali formate solution serves as the carrier fluid, allowing the cellulose to be easily metered into the brine, thereby allowing hydration without the formation of fisheyes.